

1995	High density	20.90/m ²	1996	High density	8.75/m ²
	Low density	4.19/m ²		Low density	2.23/m ²
	Mean	11.40/m ²		Mean	5.49/m ²

On the 2.v.95, the entire population was confined to an area of neutral grassland and open dune connecting two beaches on the south-east of the island (approximately 80,000m²). During the next few weeks of 1995 the caterpillars spread to cover a much wider area, mostly neutral grassland with occasional wet heath and willow *Salix aurita* scrub, where they occurred at lower densities.

The distribution on 12.v.96 was similar to the final extent covered in 1995. The area of highest density was again associated with open dunes bordering neutral grassland.

The transects showed red fescue *Festuca rubra* to be the favoured host plant in the highest density areas, although in other areas caterpillars had almost completely defoliated patches of willow scrub *Salix aurita* and broad-leaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius*. The high figure for *Festuca rubra* is probably related to its dominance within the sward.

In 1993, most sheep grazing was removed from Handa, with a few remaining stock removed in 1994. Since this time the only significant grazing mammal has been the rabbit. The population explosion of *Arctia caja* caterpillars on Handa seems in some way to be related to this recent change in management on the reserve.

It should be noted that despite the massive number of caterpillars present in early summer, most die before they pupate. The high mortality is probably due to a fungal or viral pathogen (Phillip Entwistle, *pers. comm.*) which affects caterpillars of all ages and sizes.— JONATHAN HUGHES and JULIE STONEMAN, 11a King Street, Embo, Sutherland IV25 3PU.

***Prionus coriarius* (Linn.) (Col.: Cerambycidae) in Hampshire**

On 8 August 1996 I took a single male specimen of *Prionus coriarius* at Denny Wood, New Forest, Hampshire. I caught it in my hand as it flew noisily across a clearing in late afternoon. In spite of two further visits I failed to discover others. According to Hyman & Parsons (1992) (*Review of the scarce and threatened Coleoptera of Great Britain*. Part 1., UK Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough), *P. coriarius* come under category *Notable A*. Prior to 1970 it was reported from all the southern counties, most of the midlands as far north as Cheshire and Lancashire, and from Glamorgan and Denbighshire. Since 1970 it has only been reported from East and West Sussex, East and West Kent, Surrey, Berkshire, East Suffolk and Flintshire.

I would be most interested to know if this species is increasing its range, or if my single specimen does no more than highlight under reporting of this spectacular beetle.— DR MICHAEL A. SALMON, Avon Lodge, Woodgreen, Hampshire SP6 2AU.